

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 /060 W
-----240356Z 108477 /71

R 231519Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 923
SECDEF WASHDC
HQS DA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE

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EO11652 N/A
TAGS MPOL MILI NATO
SUBJECT EXPLANATION OF US-FRG TANK HARMONIZATION

REF A) STATE 264993 DTG 272038Z OCT 76; B) STATE 279452
DTG 130028Z NOV 76 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 22, 1976, THE US AND FRG REACHED FINAL
AGREEMENT ON TEXT OF THE DRAFT EXPLANATION OF THE US-FRG
TANK HARMONIZATION PROGRAM. AGREED TEXT WAS FORWARDED TO
SYG LUNS, WITH COPIES TO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, BY A
JOINT LETTER SIGNED BY THE US AND FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTA-
TIVES ON DECEMBER 23, 1976. END SUMMARY

1. DEPUTY DEFAD (BGEN SEIGLE) MET WITH FRG/DEFAD (BGEN
SCHUENEMANN) ON NOVEMBER 17, 1976 TO DISCUSS THE BONN RES-
PONSE TO THE REVISED TEXT PROVIDED BY REF A. AS EXPECTED,
BONN INSISTED ON WORD QUOTE WILL END QUOTE IN THE FOURTH
SENTENCE, PARA F, SO AS TO READ QUOTE TO COUNTER THESE
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IMPROVEMENTS, THE NEW GENERATION OF TANKS WILL REQUIRE A
120MM GUN, EITHER SMOOTHBORE OR RIFLED. END QUOTE.
A COMPROMISE, AGREED BY THE FRG ON DECEMBER 22, 1976,
WAS REACHED BY USING THE FALL BACK WORDING PROVIDED BY
REF B WHICH PERMITTED REPLACING THE CONTROVERSIAL SENTENCE
WITH QUOTE THE US AND THE FRG THEREFORE DECIDED TO AGREE
TO MOUNT A 120MM GUN, EITHER SMOOTHBORE OR RIFLED,
BECAUSE IT WILL HAVE GREATER PENETRATION CAPABILITY
THAN THE 105MM GUN. END QUOTE. THIS WORDING WAS USED

IN THE EXPLANATION. ADDITIONALLY, A CHANGE WAS
MADE TO THE FIRST SENTENCE IN PARA H, WHICH NOW
READS QUOTE THE ADDENDUM TO THE MOU SPECIFICALLY POINTS
OUT THAT ALL ACTIONS CONTEMPLATED BY AND AGREED TO IN
THE ADDENDUM MUST BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE EXISTING
LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.
OTHER THAN THESE TWO CHANGES, THE TEXT OF THE EXPLANATION
IS THAT PROVIDED BY REF A. ALL MATERIAL WAS FOR-

WARDED AS NATO UNCLASSIFIED.

2. TEXT OF THE LETTER DATED 23 DECEMBER TO SYG LUNS WHICH
TRANSMITTED THE EXPLANATION AND ITS TWO INCLOSURES (US-FRG MOU
AND THE ADDENDUM) FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR JOSEPH,

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAVE BEEN COOPERATING FOR SOME TIME
TO ACHIEVE A HIGH DEGREE OF COMPONENT COMMONALITY IN
THE NEXT GENERATION OF MAIN BATTLE TANKS. THIS PROGRAM
OF "HARMONIZATION" -- INVOLVING THE US XM-1 AND FRG
LEOPARD 2 -- REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD
STANDARDIZATION OF TANK EQUIPMENT AMONG THE NORTH
ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION ALLIES, AND WILL, BY USING
MANY OF THE SAME ITEMS THAT ARE LOGISTICALLY IMPORTANT
ON THE BATTLEFIELD, SERVE TO INCREASE ALLIANCE COMBAT
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EFFECTIVENESS.

ATTACHED IS AN EXPLANATION OF THE HARMONIZATION
PROGRAM OUTLINING THE RATIONALE, AGREEMENTS, AND GOALS.
BECAUSE OF THE INTEREST OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES
IN THIS MATTER, WE ARE PROVIDING EACH WITH A COPY OF
THIS LETTER AND ITS ATTACHMENT.

WITH THE KINDEST REGARDS,
(SIGNED) ROBERT STRAUZ-HUPE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED STATES ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
(SIGN) ROLF F. PAULS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

END TEXT STRAUZ-HUPE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NATO07002
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761290/baaabajf.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: n/a
To: STATE
SECDEF
HQS DA INFO BONN
LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006